

**November**

**2023**

# 61 Mech Monthly

61 Mech Veterans Association

# 61 Meg Maandeliks

61 Meg Veterane Vereniging



***Die 61 Meg Diaspora Deel  
4  
Cape Town Highlanders***

***Legacy  
Conversations***

***Old Mutual Wealth  
Double Century***

***Die 61 Meg  
Mesmaker  
Hylton Rutherford***

# *In Hierdie Vitgawe*

<b>Message from the Chairman</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Military Veterans Pension</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Hoogtepunte November 2023</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Old Mutual Wealth Double Century</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Munga</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>The 61 Mech Bn Gp Diaspora Part 4</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Diensplig VS Staande Mag</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>The 61 Mech Knife Maker. Hylton Rutherford</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Legacy Conversations</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Veterane – Leef en Oorleef</b>	<b>42</b>

*Alle 61 Meg lede word hartlik uitgenooi om toepaslike artikels in te stuur vir publikasie in hierdie maandblad.  
Kom ons hou saam hierdie publikasie lewendig.*

*All 61 Mech members are cordially invited to submit relevant articles for publication in this monthly magazine.  
Let's together keep this publication alive.*

*lotterdh@gmail.com*

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

## BOODSKAP VAN DIE VOORSITTER

Dear 61ers,

As 2023 heads to a close with another year behind us we had one of the most challenging years. Losing some Brothers and family members made it even tougher. But we are a strong family with support on all corners.

The year had its highs with the Country wide Memorial service and the need for our brotherly support ever growing our numbers at get togethers. As we grow older the need arises to have that sense of belonging even more. That hollow space inside of you, the feeling that I have lost something, somewhere. We want to invite you to make contact with Jannie Nieuwoudt for any gatherings in or around your area. Come meet your old brothers and fill those gaps.

Never be alone on Christmas day, you have a 61 family. If you going to be alone in this festive season, please feel free to contact any of us. We will find a place for you to spend Christmas with those who love you and understand you.

I am sure I can extend this invitation country wide as the culture in 61 is to be there for your brother or sister.

Let's make sure if you are aware of one of our own that is going to be alone in the festive season, we open our hearts and doors for them. Let us do it the 61 way.

Exco wants to wish each one of our Members and their families a God filled Festive season. May we reach new heights in 2024 and may the Lord keep us all safe and healthy until we meet again.

Its never goodbye, its till we meet again.

Mech Greetings,



Johan Booysen

# ***Military Veterans Pension***

The first group of approved military veterans received their initial monthly pension benefit on 1 November, 11 months after the revised benefit was announced.

Deputy President Paul Mashatile made the announcement, which came two years after President Cyril Ramaphosa established a presidential task team (PTT) for military veterans, led by then Deputy President David Mabuza. Various issues, including registration and administrative processes, delayed the implementation of pension regulations for military veterans.

These processes included the appointment of a military veteran appeal board, addressing administration fee payments, and updating the national military veterans database. The Government Pension Administration Agency (GPAA) admitted and processed prospective pension beneficiaries. Deputy Defence and Military Veterans Minister Thabang Makwetla stated that the first pension payment marked an important milestone in addressing the challenges faced by military veterans.

The statement did not specify the number of old soldiers from the former liberation forces and defense forces who received the first payment, but it mentioned that 18,119 pension benefit applications have been received so far. The establishment of the veterans PTT was prompted by a meeting in October 2021, where the Liberation Struggle War Veterans (LSWV) group held Minister Thandi Modise, Deputy Minister Thabang Makwetla, and Minister in the Presidency Mondli Gungubele hostage.

The LSWV demanded various benefits, including a reparation settlement, medical aid, housing allowance, government jobs, and tertiary education for their children. According to Kabelo Jonathan, the Director of Special Pensions at GPAA, military veterans should note that payments will be made from the date of application approval. Those interested in applying for the pension should submit their applications to the Government Pensions Administration Agency (GPAA) through the provided contact information.

[Milvet.applications@gpaa.gov.za](mailto:Milvet.applications@gpaa.gov.za)

[Milvet.enquiries@gpaa.gov.za](mailto:Milvet.enquiries@gpaa.gov.za)

0800 11 7669.





# Hoogtepunte

## November 2023

### Highlights



**2 NOVEMBER 2023**





## KZN Remembrance Parade 12 November



*Anthony Turton*

*The HAMC Poppy Day event* was extended to Durban for the first time. This builds on the many successful events already hosted by HAMC country wide. Being the first in KZN there has been a lot to learn from, but the solid support from within the broader HAMC community has played an important role. In the Durban event, 61MVA was the partner, through 61 Riders as the officially registered FMC. 61 Riders was responsible for the military parade and access to the facilities at QNMR. We also provided the parade commander and Sgt Major. This event will grow over time as the others have done. This specific event saw the fruition of a particular outreach program - Born of 61 - when young Jesse proudly wore his Uncles medals and placed a wreath on behalf of the children and families of 61 Mech Veterans. Next year this event will become bigger and better than before, for that is what has happened to all the other events of this nature.



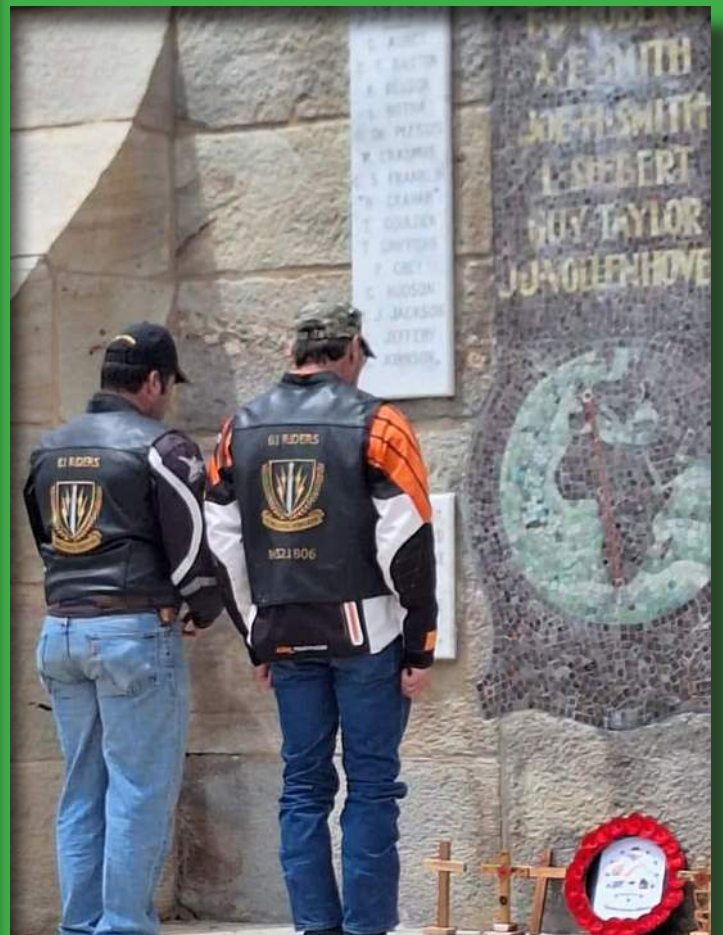








**Roderick van der Westhuizen,  
MMA Remembrance day in Mosselbaai,**





## Remembrance Day Perth

*Theo van Niekerk*

*11 November*

*Perth Kingspark. Ons SA veterane by WW11  
Remembrance Day service. 11/11/23*



## Toyrun 25 November

*Die 61 Riders het weer 61 se naam hoog  
gehou by die jaarlikse Toy Run in Kaapstad.  
25 November 2023*

*Annual Toyrun in the Overberg.  
+- 200km mass ride to Elim Bredasdorp  
and Napier ending up at Stanford.*





# ***61 Mech Mountain Biking***

***Carina Burger***

## ***WHO ARE WE:***

I am a road cyclist conformed to Mountain biking, thus enjoying the freedom for almost 2 years.

Cyclists are broadly defined between the recreational cyclist and the all-in amateur racer. We are a serious, committed, and regular bunch of rider's "enthusiasts" who ride between 2000 -10 000km a year. We do this on flat, rolling and mountain terrain inland, around the coast, up a mountain, down a mountain, wherever we can find a path. We will spend a large quantity of time on our bikes, 4-6 days a week outdoors, in good, lousy, and windy weather, early mornings and late evenings. Half of us will ride in the winter on a trainer, some will still ride outside, and the rest will sleep in. We ride on our own, with regular partners, and in group rides. All for the love of it, but in the end with a bigger goal in mind.

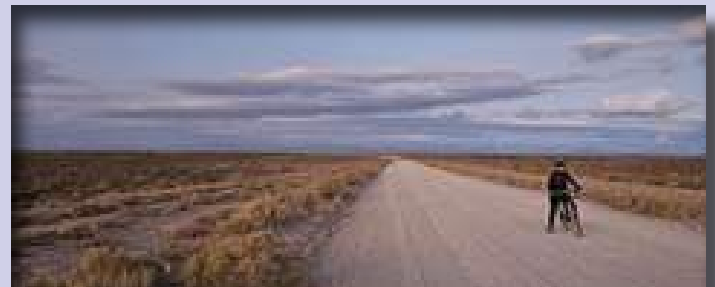
## ***PREPARATIONS***

During the Year we will normally ride to stay fit, for the challenge, how it energizes us (reduces stress, assist with fitness), and keeps us healthy. We are a group of Veteran and Friends of 61 MMV cyclists scattered all over South Africa that keeps us busy or on-going with a few races, (99'er, Ride Joburg, Cape Cycle Tour, Around the Pot and many more) club rides, and extreme races (Munga, Attekwas, Trans Bavians) and the ultimate to hang out with "buddies" which enjoys the special sport with you. We are quite a close knitted group. Once a year we try to organize a large ride to display 61MVV to the "world" and to introduce old, young, familiar,

***2023 61MVA members practicing in different conditions.***



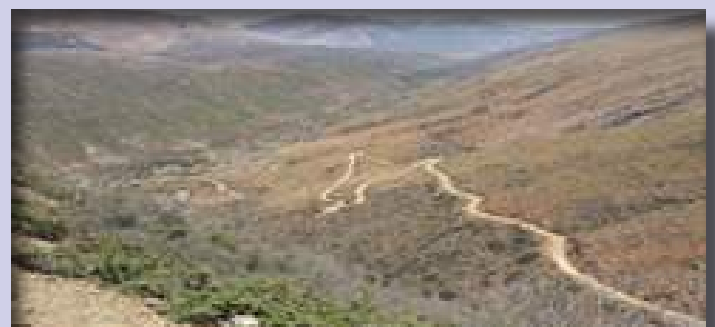
***Early Morning Rides***



***Late night Rides***



***Cold Weather days***



***Hot Summer days***



and brand-new members to 61 MVA but in the end to promote our Buddies in need, when duty calls, we serve. This year we decided on the Old Mutual Double Century race. Twelve team members will participate in this race. We also have two members Cordre and Drik that will participate in the Solo Munga race just a week after the Old Mutual Double Century Race.



***2023 Around the Pot: Jaap Steyn, Carina Burger, Johan Moelich, Bennie du Plessis***



***2023 Trans Baviaans: Johan Moelich, Carina Burger, Cordre Smit, Pierre de Jager, Hannes Basson***



***2023 Cordre Smit, Munga Grit***



***2023 Karoo Poison: Theuns Botha***

Whether we race or not, we are competitive within ourselves to always strive and do better and to challenge yourself to raise the quality of our rides. Some of us have been hit by a car, dog, have broken bones, stretched a calve muscle and lost friends during these races and rides but all the good and the bad has a learning curve in the process. We are many hours away from our families, which is difficult, but most accept us as we are and do understand. We are brothers and sisters but 61MVA is a “family business”, thus our families are involved, disrupt but share in the Glory. We put a lot of effort into the quality and maintenance of our equipment, mountain bikes and gear. This we all do for ourselves but also because we are fortunate to do this, enjoy this and by helping others that are not able to help themselves.

We lost a dear friend of 61MVA Bennie Du Plessis right after a race which he did so well in. We will carry his memory with us forever. It is not always moonshine and roses, to prepare for any race or in any matter, sometimes the most positive person can have an off day. But it's about getting up and finding the WHY again. Surrounding yourself with positive people that build you up and not break you down.

### ***MAKING A DIFFERENCE***

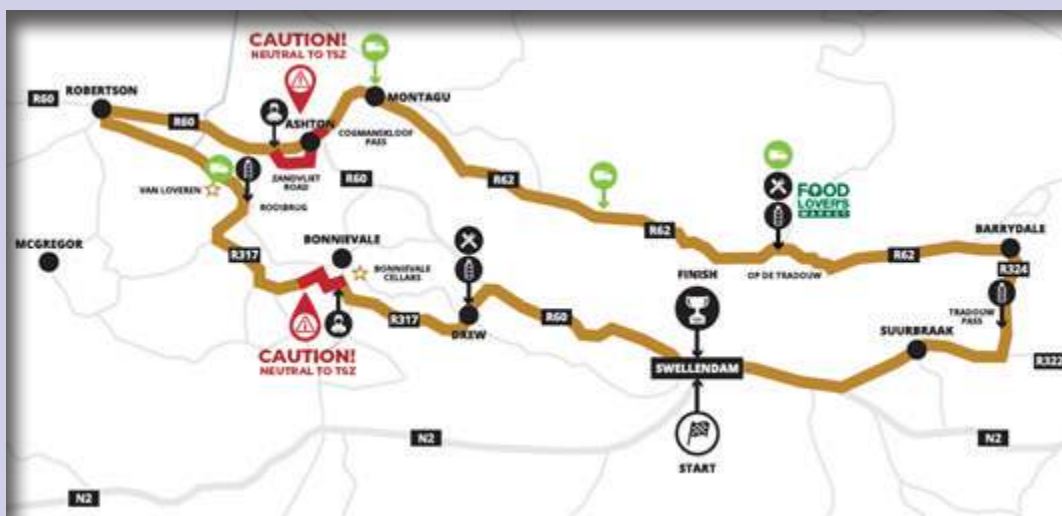
During our Trans Baviaans race in August this year myself and my riding partner Moela participated in our Yellow 61 MVA Band of Brothers cycling shirts. Between nothing and nowhere we came to a water point and out of the



blue different members approached us because of the iconic shirt and 61 MVA emblem. A few days later our photo was on the 61 Mech Bn Gp – Gone but never forgotten Facebook. Never in our lives did we expect to reach a community in the Baviaans meet people who served in 61, knows 61 and wanted to honor our fellow members. This was a remarkable experience, wonderful to meet these members and you will never know how small a gesture can become or make a huge difference. We as 61 MVA cyclist are always striving to display an image of a “band of brothers” (and a sister – being the only lady in the Munga squad last year) and to unite as a Veteran team to pedal together and to make a difference in which small matter we can.



## OLD MUTUAL DOUBLE CENTURY



May 2023 the 61 Cyclists had to decide on Munga ride or not, this is the ultimate ride and 2022 we had a huge success with the race and could raise a good amount of money to assist “our buddies”. Unfortunately, due to a huge price increase for the Munga race, made it difficult for the members to participate. A quick decision had to be made to participate in smaller team races in the members’ specific regions and then to have one large race for the whole group. The suggestion was made to do the Old Mutual Wealth Double century race on 25 November. The 61 MVV team will have 12 members (Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Zastron,

Postmasburg, Ceres, Wellington, Paarl, and Cape Town) participating in the race which is a circle route of 202km to be competed in 10 hours. The team will do this on their Mountain bikes even though the race is a traditional Road race.

It takes a certain type of person to tackle a race like the Old Mutual Wealth Double Century, it takes hours of practice and dedication to get to the start line. It’s a mix of emotions, with a bit of guts, lots of positivity and a team that can stand together. There is no I in a team of warriors.

## ***The team***

***Glen Botha***

***Carina Burger***

***Pierre de Jager***

***Madeleen Coetzee***

***Rico Coetzee***

***Sarel Coetzee***

***Johan Hugo***

***Jakes Jacobs***

***Johan Moelich***

***Jaco Prinsloo***

***George Slabbert***

***Jaap Steyn***



The week before the race our Team Captain Pierre De Jager got injured when a dog ran in front of him when he was on a high-speed descent training ride. He injured his shoulder and back severely but is on the recovery road. We decided to carry on with only 11 riders for the Race.

Friday evening, 24 November all riders got together on the farm where we spent the night before the race. It was a great evening spent with old and new friends; the evening's final preparations were done and the do's and don'ts explained for the route by the administrator Carina Burger. The new team Captain Sarel Coetzee was selected, and the evening was ended with our Team support Main man Marius who made us an enormous pasta "pot" for the final carbo load before the race.



***Pasta Pot***



***Bicycles loaded, ready to travel***



***Pre-Race Briefing***



## *25 November 2023 - Day of the Race*



Its 03:00 in the morning and the house is coming “alive” with all the riders getting ready for the 05:25 line up to start. Gear on, last minute checks, loading of bikes and starting the day with a morning prayer.

Riders and bikes are loaded off, time to get to the blocks and a last few picture’s before the day starts. It’s a perfect day for riding, everyone is in great spirit. The race starts in Swellendam, to the N2 through Suurbraak. Nature is pretty and the sunrise just beautiful.





52km into the race Carina had to withdraw due to a hamstring injury – she made it to the first Neutral Zone on her own leaving the 10 members to make the race in time. She withdrew from the race at the neutral zone, but with great disappointment.

The Tradouws Pass and the Op De Tradouws pass the team managed to have an average of 19km/h which is extremely good on mountain bikes, from there they had a “lekker” downhill with rolling hills taking them to Montagu. Montagu the team endured headwinds up till the Neutral Zone in Ashton where they could fuel up with good food organized by Marius Moelich.



*Good food fill up*



*Jakes Jacobs*



*First Neutral Zone: Ashton*



*Johan Moelich*

From Ashton Neutral Zone, the team headed off to Robertson. On the turn to Bonnievale they faced again a strong SE headwind, and the temperature was rising to a whopping 34 degrees. There were a few members with cramps along the route which made it challenging.



*Rico Coetzee*



At the second Neutral Zone just before the Bonnievale Cellar the team rest for a few minutes, stocked with cramping medication, fluids, and hot rub, and off they went for the final 40km stretch to Swellendam. The route took them past Drew to the N2 back to Swellendam where the three “ugly pigs” as they are called awaited them (three inclines) that tested them mentally and physically. Jaap Steyn had a flat tyre on the last stretch and 3 members stayed with him to get the whole team over the finish line.

Jakes came in last with second to spare before the final cut off time. In the end the team made the ride in 09:45 and all of them are seen as winners for their great effort.

Although the enthusiasm and anticipation of reaching the end result can be a great motivator, we should never forget that the journey to get there is often the most pleasurable one. Going on the journey helps to build anticipation, provide appreciation and understanding of the end result, and gives us the opportunity to learn



*Gerhard van Rooyen and Carina Burger*

lessons and grow through experiences. During the journey we have the chance to look around and enjoy the many wonderful things along the way. We get to see, view and enjoy times of reflection, and most importantly learn from any mistakes we may make. These experiences are what ultimately help us remember the journey and gives us the appreciation and pride of accomplishing the end result. 61 Members standing together.



# Munga

*61 MVA have some very special members. Cordre Smith & Dirk Labuschagne will be riding the Munga. They have chosen 61 MVA as the organisation to represent & raise funds for. They paid their own expenses and all donations will be paid into the 61 MVA Buddy Fund.*



*Cordré Smith*

He is a farmer from Matroosberg , nearby Ceres. He did his National Service in the Medical Core as a Training Officer. Cordré started cycling four years ago after he was diagnosed with diabetes 2, He lost 32kg of weight.

He joined 61MVA as a 10 year member and has already participated the previous two years in the 61MVA team in the Munga Equipe.

Cordre also did other races like the Munga Grit Tankwa(2 times) in his 61 MVA jersy. His aim for 2023 is to complete the Munga Solo from Bloemfontein to Wellington(1150km on offroad terrain.)

## *Preparations for Munga 2023:*

He has pedalled for 7820 km in 169 practise runs. Total climb in meters 63050 in that period of training. Spend 383 hours on the saddle. His total weight, bike included is 98kg



*Dirk Labuschagne*

From Potchefstroom.

National Service in the Field Artillery 82/83. Spent 14 months as an officer at Omuthiya in 61 Mech Bn Gp.

He was an excellent marathon athlete. A few years ago he started cycling with results in 2023 as follows:

- a. 1st place Gauteng Gravel Championship.
- b. 2nd place at SA Gravel Championship( in categorie older than 60)

## *Preparations for munga 2023:*

He pedal for 13, 698km in 267 practise runs. Total climb in meters is 134,201 meters. Spend in total 539 hours on the Saddle.



29 November 2023. 'n Paar van Club Omuthiya se manne het vir ons twee MUNGA manne gaan afsien by die Windmill Casino waar die wegspring van die Munga Bergfiets wedren plaasvind. Sterkte aan Cordre Smith & Dirk Labuschagne wat die MUNGA ry om geld in te samel vir die 61 Meg Veteranne.





# ***The 61 Mech Bn Gp Diaspora***

## ***Part 4***

### **CAPE TOWN HIGHLANDERS**

The term “diaspora” originates from an ancient Greek word that signifies the act of scattering. This accurately describes the actions of people belonging to a diaspora, as they disperse from their native land to various locations around the world, while simultaneously sharing and promoting their culture along the way.

This is analogous to 61 Mech.

Just like the wind that awakens and brings rejuvenation as it moves along, the days of the 61 Mech Bn Gp were pioneering days filled with opportunities. For the national servicemen who were fortunate enough to go through the rigorous training of 61 Mech, a new challenge awaited. Once they completed their National Service, they were assigned to citizen force regiments. The Regiments force welcomed some of the most skilled and capable young soldiers into their ranks. These soldiers brought with them their expertise, top-notch training, and valuable combat experiences, adding value to the regiments they joined.





Among many others, the following 61 Mech members served with Regiment Groot Karoo (Poll on 61 Mech Facebook Group on 13 July 2023).

Hannes Beukes, Pieter Evert, Chris Greyling, Richard Wiles, Lourens Theron, Jean Neethling, Merv Knowles, Johan De Vries, Jacques Bernardo, Andre Moolman, Deon Botha, Deon Volschenk

Afstammeling van Skotse setlaars in Suid Afrika het die Cape Town Highlanders op 24 April 1885 tot stand gebring.

As gevolg van vrese van 'n oorlog tussen Brittanje en Rusland in 1885 is verskeie vrywilligeenhede in Britse kolonies op die been gebring - onder hulle is die Cape Town Highlanders.

Sedert 1885 het hierdie eg Skotse regiment met sy trotse tradisie nie net in Suid-Afrika nie, maar ook in ander dele van die wêreld sy staal getoon. Kapt John Scott het destyds heelwat gedoen vir die stigting van die Highlanders-regiment. Aan sy deursettingsvermoë en intense belangstelling in die oorlewing van die Skotse tradisie het die eenheid sy voortbestaan te danke. Aan die begin was daar wel probleme. Met die eerste parade het Scott nie veel hoop gehad vir die stigting van die nuwe regiment nie, aangesien slegs drie offisiere en sestig manskappe tydens die parade op hul name geantwoord het.

Maar hy het volhard sodat die belangstelling aansienlik gegroei het. Die eerste kerkparade van die Highlanders is op Sondag, 31 Januarie 1886, met 164 manskappe en sewe offisiere in voile seremoniële drag gehou. Die regiment het tot by die St Andrews-kerk in Groenpunt gemarsjeer om die diens wat deur sy eie kapelaan, eerw John Russel aangebied is, by te woon. Die parade was so geslaagd en kleurryk dat dit heelwat nuwe rekrute gelok het.



*Februarie 1897 — offisiere van The Cape Town Highlanders.*



Vanaf die begin het die regiment hoofsaaklik uit vrywilligers bestaan. Hierdie vrywilligers was nie net Skotte nie, maar het ook Afrikaners, Jode, Grieke, Italianers, Duitsers en Portugese ingesluit.

Gedurende 1886 het die Highlanders hul eerste aktiewe optrede beleef toe die Maleiers in opstand gekom het teen die sluiting van hul tradisionele begraafplaas in Groenpunt. Al die manne in uniform in die Kaap is op bystand geplaas om probleme die hoof te bied. Met sy flinke optrede het The Cape Town Highlanders getoon dat hy 'n regiment is waarop daar in die toekoms gereken souk on word.

Só het hy reeds in 1896-97 met die Betsjoeanalandse kampanje in die Langeberge gewys van watter staal hy gemaak is. Die CTH het met hierdie kampanje 144 offisiere en manskappe in aktiewe diens gehad. Almal buiten twee weermanne het ongedeerd teruggekom.

Hierna het die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog en die twee Wêreldoorloë gevolg. Tydens eersge-

noemde (1899-1902) het die regiment gedurende die slag van Jacobsdal die eerste keer van sy manne verloor. Gedurende die oorlog het CTH of elemente van die eenheid in verskeie gevegte deelgeneem, insluitend die ontsetting van Kimberley.

Ontvang in 1904 'n Koningsvaandel ter erkenning van sy diens in die oorlog. Die hertog van Connaught word in 1908 as opperkolonel van die regiment aangestel – die naam word verander na 'Duke of Connaught & Strathearn's Own Cape Town Highlanders'.

Gedurende 1910 word die eenheid ingelyf by die burgermag van die nuwe Unie Verdediging Mag.

In 1913 word die eenheid gegroepeer as die 6de Infanterie (Duke of Connaught & Strathearn's Own Cape Town Highlanders). Neem deel aan die Duits-Suidwes-Afrika-veldtog (1914-15) as deel van 4 Suid-Afrikaanse Infanterieregiment en veg ook in Egipte en op die Wesfront in Frankryk. (1916-18).



*Lede van 4 SAI (SA Scottish) in Egipte in 1916.*

*Vierde van links is kpl H.L Sumner, 'n toekomstige bevelvoerder van The Cape Town Highlanders.*





Gedurende die 1920's affilieer met die Gordon Highlanders (in die Britse leër). Die eenheid se naam verander na 'Cape Town Highlanders (Duke of Connaught & Strathearn's Own)' in 1932.

Op 10 April 1940 is die offisiere en manskappe ter voorbereiding van die oorlogstryd vir intensiewe opoeiding na Oudtshoorn gestuur. Op 1 Julie 1940 het die regiment met 31 offisiere en 1 021 man onder bevel van Lt-Kol Summer op parade gegaan. Vir die daaropvolgende vyf jaar sou hulle aan die kwaaieste gevegte in Afrika en Europa deelneem, en die eerste infanteriebataljon word wat in Egipte sou veg.

CTH word deel van die Noord-Afrika-veldtog (1941-42): Die besetting van die Gazala-linie, die verdediging van El Alamein. Word deel van die Italiaanse-veldtog (1944-45) en veg in die

slagte van Monte Cassino, Chiusi, Florence, die Gotiese-linie, Monte Stanco, Monte Pezza, Monte Sole, Monte Caprara, en die deurbraak na die Po-vallei. Koningin Elizabeth word aangestel as opperkolonel in 1947 - die regiment se naam word verander na 'Queen's Own Cape Town Highlanders' in 1948.

Die eenheid het sedert 24 April 1885 ontwikkel vanaf 'n handjievol swak toegeruste maar entoesiastiese vrywilligers tot een van die beste gemeganiseerde infanterieregimente in Suid-Afrika.



The Cape Town Highlanders het aanvanklik klerasie en uitrusting van oorsee bestel om aan die eenheid 'n eg tradisionele uniform te verleen. Die drageregulasies is rondom die donkergroen van die Gordon-tartan gebou. 'n Donkerblou "Glengarry" met 'n swartvoëltert en kenteken het die hooftooisels afgerond, donkergroen doublet met geen belegsels nie; 'n Skotse rokkie (kilt), hooglandersbroek (trew) en geruite mantel oor die linkerskouer in Gordon tartan; roksakkie (sporrans), slobkouse (spats) en kouse. Wit metaalknope in die ontwerp van die Scotts Guards; kentekens in die vorm van die Skotse Ster met dissels in die middel en CTH op die kousband is van die kledingstukke wat die Cape Town Highlanders se uniform so uniek en kleurrik maak. Offisiere, onderoffisiere en orkeslede dra almal die geruite mantels, serpe, ens volgens die tradisie van alle Highlander regimente.

Met republiekwording in 1961 verander die regiment sy naam na 'Cape Town Highland-







*The Cape Town Highlanders marsjeer verby die Kat in die Kasteel.*

ers' en ontvang die Vryheid van Toegang tot die Stad Kaapstad

Die eenheid neem deel aan die Angola-veldtog (1975-76) en word betrek by aktiewe diens in Angola

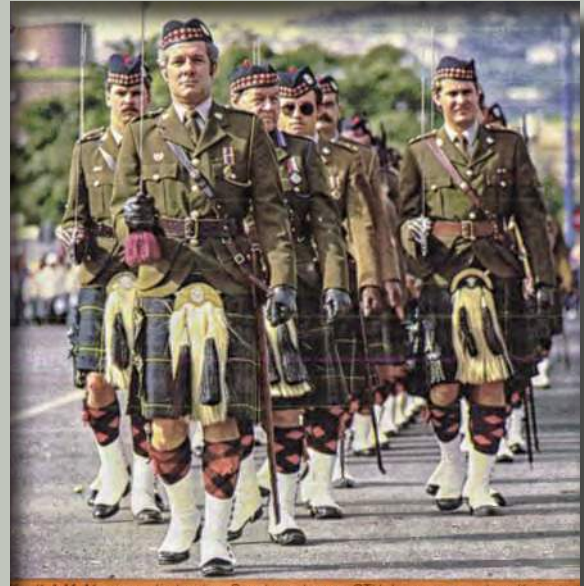
CTH neem deel in verskeie ontplooiings gedurende die Grensoorlog met verskeie operasionele diensbeurte in noordelike Suidwes-Afrika en suidelike Angola.

In 1979 word die eenheid verander van 'n konvensionele infanterie-eenheid na 'n gemeganiseerde eenheid wat heelwat heropleiding van offisiere en manskappe vereis het. Slegs vier jaar ná die verandering is die eenheid aangewys as die beste gemeganiseerde infanterie-eenheid in die land. Die eenheid kan ook spog met die Kamer van Mynwese-Trofee vir die beste doedelsak-orkes (1985) in die land. Offisiere en adjudant-offisiere is almal vrywilligers. Gedurende die Noodtoestand (1985-90) word CTH verskeie kere vir binnelandse veiligheidsdienste opgeroep. Die regiment vier sy eeufes in 1985.

Tydens die eeufes vieringe in 1985 het die eenheid op gepaste wyse versprei oor een week verskeie funksies aangebied.

'n Dinee waar die Staatspresident, mnr. P.W.

Botha, as eregas teenwoordig was en die gaste toegesprek het, is dieselfde aand in die Kaapstadse stadsaal as deel van die eeufesvieringe gehou. Die Staatspresident het tydens die dinee gesê dat die bestaan van The Cape Town Highlanders een belangrike faset van ons unieke Suid-Afrika beklemtoon: "Dit is die rykdom van verskeidenheid." Die feesvieringe is in Groenpunt by die St Andrews-kerk met 'n ere-diens afgesluit.



*Kmdt A.M. Marriner, Bevelvoerder van CTH, lei sy manne deur Kaapstad se strate. 1985*

CTH word in April 1994 gemobiliseer om te help verseker dat 'n eerste ten volle demokratiese verkiesing vreedsaam verloop.

Toe die burgermag na 1994 in die reserwemag omskep is word die CTH 'n reserwemageenheid.

In 2000 word 'n kontingent van die Cape Town Highlanders Regiment gestuur om die Koninginmoeder se 100ste verjaardag by te woon en paradeer met die regiments vaandel. Met die dood van die koninginmoeder in 2002 het die regiment 'n kontingent gestuur om aan haar begrafnisstoet deel te neem. Die CTH orkes neem deel aan verskeie Militêre Tattoo's (2002, 2004, 2006 en 2009). In 2006 is hulle genooi om saam met die Queensland Police Pipe Band en vier ander orkeste van die nuwe Royal Regiment of Scotland om by Balmoral Castle op te



tree vir die koninklike familie. Die CTH orkes het ook deelgeneem aan die Basel Tattoo, Jinhae (Suid-Korea) en by die Cape Town Tattoo, wat in die Kasteel in Kaapstad gehou is.

Die regiment is tans 'n gemeganiseerde infanterie-regiment in die SANW en het lede gestuur as deel van die Vredesbewaring kontingent na die Demokratiese Republiek van die Kongo (DRK) en Burundi.

**NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT.**

“Niemand sal strafloos by my verbykom nie”.

## **Slagveld Eerbewyse (Campaign Recognitions)**

Die Cape Town Highlanders Regiment het die volgende geveg eerbewyse op sy regiment vaandel:

*Bechuanaland 1896–97, South Africa 1899–1902, South West Africa 1915, Gazala, Alam Hamza, Best Post, Alamein Box, Alamein Defence, Alam el Halfa, Battle of El Alamein, Western Desert 1941–43, Cassino II, Paliano, Chiusi, Florence, Gothic Line, The Greve, Monte Stanco, Monte Pezza, Sole/Caprara, Po Valley, Italy 1944–45.*

## **Cape Town Highlanders Miniatures**

### **C - Kriget Kommer**



# Diensplig VS Staande Mag

## Brig-Genl Tony Savides se Siening

‘n UITSIG VANUIT DIE OORKANT: DEEL 5/6

*Onthou asb dat alle menings, kommentaar ens, deur hierdie reeks myne is, en myne alleen. Verskoning word steeds aangebied vir die gebruik van kru taal (al is dit toe-paslik!)*

*T Savides*

**Radaksie Nota:** Fotos en sketse in hierdie artikel is vir illustrasie doeleindes ingevoeg en die oorspronklike bron aangedui waar bekend.

### *“Vrolike samewerking” – WAT?*

Die Engelse definisie van dissipline lees o.a. soos volg “Discipline comes as much from cheerful co-operation as it does from sheer obedience”. Direkte vertalings van “cheerful” in hierdie opsig neig na “vrolike” as die beste vertaling – regtig! “Gelate” of “berustende” of ten minste “gedwonge” sou seker meer toe-

paslik wees, want wie sou ‘n rondfok of ‘n op-fok as ‘n “vrolike ondervinding” wil beskryf!

Daarteenoor as mens terugdink: alles was aanvanklik haatlik, onnodig, neerhalend en afbrekend; en toe: “daar is geen manier wat ek hulle gaan toelaat om my onder te kry nie!” En toe die besef dat jou makkers ook so voel. Skielik is dit “ONS gaan nie dat HULLE ons onderkry nie, en later “ons is darrem ‘n gedugte span!” Nie net dit nie, “ons is ook baie beter as die ander seksies/pelotons/kompanies/eenhede – baie beter opgelei, beter gedissiplineerd, baie meer aanwendbaar – en daarby sommer mooier ook!”

Amper sonder om dit agter te kom, het julle die spreekwoordelike toonbeeld van dissipline, leierskap, spangees, ens. geword. En die arrogante-, sadistiese-, haatlike Pee-Effs en JJs? “Wel, hulle is darrem nie so sleg nie, eintlik bakgat, en ja, ons het seker baie van dit wat aan ons toegedien is eintlik verdien. En kyk net hoe het hulle wonderbaarlik binne maande nie slegs as soldate, maar ook as mens verbeter!”

En, wat van die verdomde “civvies”? Maande lank wou julle graag weer soos hulle wees – heerlik vry, sonder die knaende druk van die “brass” en die instruktors – maar nou? “Kyk net hoe slordig is hulle, papperig en dan verstaan hulle nie die taal wat ons besig nie”. Op ‘n dag het jy agtergekom dat jou “browns” redelik verbleik het en, selfs wanneer gestysel en gestryk, hulle ‘n simbool geword het van die “nuwe jy” – nog meer na grensdiens. En toe jou moeder of jou meisie uitgewys het dat jy verander het, dat jy nie meer net loop nie,





maar marsjeer en/of “swagger” (effense windgat houding), het jy eers gedink “o gaats, ek het my korporaal of luitenant geword – maar, as dit so is, is dit vir my ‘n kompliment!

*Daar is ‘n tyd en plek vir alles – ook vir nadenke*

Ons moet egter nie nou deur al hierdie mooi gedagtes ontvoer word nie – nog nie! Kom ons wag eers ‘n dekade of wat na die diensplig tydperk, en veral na die operasionele diens, met al die moeilikhede, die trauma en die lelik, maar ook die kameraadskap en die samesyn, ewige vriendskappe wat gevorm is. Kyk dan op ‘n tydstip terug en vra “wat het dit regtig vir my beteken, en was dit die moeite werd?”

*Helaas! Daardie tydstip is nou!*

Terwyl jy terugdink, onthou ook dit wat nie goed was nie – en hoekom - en sorg dat jy dit nooit herhaal of op ander toepas nie. Die druk het wel soms oorbodig, soms onnodig voorgekom en mag selfs aan onwettig geraak het, maar jy het dit oorleef en hopelik daaruit lesse geleer.

Diamante word deur druk gevorm en daarna geslyp, en dienspligtiges was diamante – gevorm deur die druk van aanvanklike-, en geslyp deur verdere opleiding en deur opera-

sionele ondervinding! Maar dié wat nie uit die regte stof gemaak was nie, kon deur geen druk of opleiding reg gevorm word nie. Te veel druk sou van die rou koolstof sand i.p.v. ‘n diamant gevorm het – as die koolstof self nie sterk was nie. Daar was wel diamante wat moeilik geslyp het, en selfs wat maar rof gebly het, maar die SAW het gelukkig plek vir alle soorte gehad, self die spreekwoordelike rowwe diamante wat telkens hulself ook as volwaardige soldate bewys het.

So sterk soos wat ‘n diamant is, kan ‘n enkele hou met ‘n hamer dit verpletter. Sommige sg. leiers het hulle soms as spreekwoordelike hamers i.p.v. diamantslypers geag, en onder die dekmantel van “sweet nou eerder as om later te bloei”, die druk te vër geneem.

Daar bestaan egter geen spreekwoordelike “fyn lyn” tussen wettig en onwettig nie, en min versagtende omstandighede wat sleg in goed kan verander nie. Dus, wat onwettig was, was onwettig en moes gestraf gewees het. Baie daarvan is egter nooit aangemeld nie, nie noodwendig uit vrees vir wraakneming deur die skuldiges nie, maar ook uit die wete dat die slagoffer homself as ‘n beter mens en soldaat as hulle beskou het.

Wat in die eenheid gebeur is uiteindelik die aanspreeklikheid (en selfs die verantwoordelikheid) van die bevelvoerder, maar die laer vlak bevelvoerders, AOe, die instruktors en selfs die troepe het deel daaraan. As bevelvoerder het ek my personeel verseker van my volle steun sou hulle foute maak, maar nie sou hulle onwettig optree nie. Die SMag koolstof was dus ook onder geweldig druk om diamante te bly, en deurgaans as slypers eerder as afbrekende hamers op te tree.



## *Hulle wat nie “vegters” was nie*

As hy iemand waargeneem het wat ‘n regte “Grensvegter” houding inneem, het my ou vriend wyle Frans Botes, altyd gevra “yes, but can he fight?” Persoonlik vind ek die grensvegter houding beide irriterend en aanstootlik, veral as hulle “war stories” vertel asof hulle self daaraan deelgeneem het. Ek vertel self baie sulke stories, maar altyd deur eers die lesers of luisteraars te verseker dat dit nie my stories is nie, maar ook dat ek verplig voel om die SAW se suksesse verder te verkondig, self uit te basuin. Ek is g’n grensvegter nie!

Ek vind die houding van sommiges met grensdiens-ondervinding wat neerhalend praat van die manne wat agtergebly het ewe aanstootlik – want dit is immers ook ‘n valse “grensvegter” houding! Vir elke mens, stewel, wiel, rusper, rondte, rantsoen, brief, of enige ander komponent van grensdiens, veral operasies, is daar tientalle mense in die RSA wat dit moontlik gemaak het en dit deurlopend ondersteun het.

Die “Operasionele Gebied” is wel gedefinieer as “noord van die rooi lyn” maar in werklikheid het dit ook die hele RSA ingesluit. Honderde professionele soldate (SMag, BMag, NDP en Komdos) het nooit aan operasies in SWA/Namibië of oorgrens deelgeneem nie, maat sonder hulle sou sulke operasies nooit kon plaasvind nie.

Die voorsieningslyne het nie in Omuythiya of Rundu begin nie, ook nie Grootfontein nie, maar eerder vër terug in “Die States” waar duisende manne en dames, civvy en soldaat die skakels was in daardie ketting. Wees dankbaar dat die “jam stellers” en ander hulle poste gevul het – al het die stelsel nie altyd na wense verloop nie! Ook die “tampax tiffies” wat afgevoerde ongevallen by die militêre hospitale en elders versorg het, het net so ‘n belangrike rol as die Ops Medics vervul – al was dit nie onder dieselfde veeleisende omstandighede nie.

Dus, as jy weer na die “tuisblyers” verwys,

verseker dat jy die valse grensvegter sterk aanspreek, en die steunpilare wat jou ops ondervinding gesteun het aanprys.

Sulke “grensvegter” optredes het terloops ook soms voor operasionele ontplooiing plaasgevind, waar die troepe wat vir operasionele diens bestem is, hulle self al hoe meer as “beter” as die tuisblyers beskou het. Wat ‘n klug, en wat ‘n bewys van ‘n gebrek aan self-respek! Hulle is egter (en gelukkig) ook gou met die spreekwoordelike slag aarde toe gebring deur die ou manne van operasionele kompanies wat teruggekeer het vir ‘n blaaskans of om uit te klaar!

## *Wie was ‘n las vir wie?*

Die dienspligstelsel het gesorg dat die SMag en JLS ‘n las op die skouers van die nuwe innames geword het, maar op hulle beurt was die innames ook ‘n las vir die eenheidspersoneel. Die meeste SMag lede sou eerder grensdiens verrig het, of by die Korpskole ingedeel wees, as om oor en oor die groen koring op die land in ‘n ryp oes te probeer verander. Vir sommiges was die “rep en rioer” van ‘n opleidingseenheid en die uitdaging van ‘n goeie oes egter verkieslik, en het hulle dit terdeë geniet en selfs uitgebuit. Die uitdagings was groot, veral omdat elke nuwe NDP met sy eie sg “baggage” aangekom het, gelukkig meestal sonder onoorkomelike probleme, terwyl sommiges regte “probleem-kindere” was.

Ons het met persoonlike familie probleme te doen gekry, siektes, sterfgevallen, finansiële probleme en wie weet wat nog. Dan praat ek nie van die misdaad nie! Dit het omtrent die hele spektrum gedek vanaf die “wen” van ‘n ander man se klere tot afwesigheid sonder verlof, diefstal en beskadiging van uitrusting, aanranding, ens. Die meeste misdaad kon militêr afgehandel word (van opfoks tot summiere verhore en selfs krygsrade) maar sommiges moes noodwendig na die SAP en plaaslike howe verwys word.

Ek het bv ‘n stoorman gehad wat een nag be-



sluit het om 'n Land Rover met LMGs en ammunisie te laai, en noordwaarts te reis “om Rhodesië te gaan help”. Hy het nie daarmee weggekom nie. Hy het op Bainsvlei net buite Bloemfontein gestop om 'n pastei en 'n Coke te koop – en net daar het 'n wakker lid van die SAP hom gearresteer! Die man het dalk gedink dat sy manewales snaaks was, maar ek het nie. Die magistraat wat hom tronk toe gestuur het, ook nie! Gelukkig is sy vrag heel herwin.

Die AO of onderoffisier wat op Dag Een vir die inname vertel het “Ek is nou jou pa en jou ma – en die army is nou jou familie” het dit in sommige gevalle later berou, want dit het werklik sy plig geword om welke probleme ook al opgeduik het, het dit sy, en die eenheid, se probleme geword. En dan was daar sommige ouers wat gedink het diensplig gaan dít regkry wat hulle in 17 of 18 jaar nie kon regkry nie. Ook ouers wat oor elke moontlike ding gepla en gekla het – of Boetie daarmee saamgestem het of nie. Aan die heel anderkant van die spektrum was die honderde ouers en familieleden wat hulle volhartige steun en ondersteuning aan die eenhede gegee het, self tydens moeilike- en onaangename tye.

### *One big happy family! (Nê!)*

Die “SAW en Seuns” was verseker 'n groot familie, maar beslis nie altyd 'n gelukkige ene nie. Dit was ons gesamentlike lot – whether we or the men liked it or not! Ons was saam in 'n spreekwoordelike boot en moes saam rooi om anderkant uit te kom.



Die NDPs het dit meestal gelate of selfs entoesiasties aanvaar en hulle bes gedoen, maar om “agter ander se kinders te kyk” is nie altyd maklik nie, veral as die ouers nie saamspeel nie. Melanie herinner my elke nou en dan dat ek telkens vir haar gesê het “ek het nie probleem soldate nie, maar wel 'n paar probleem ouers”. Mens wil nie daarop uitbrei nie, want die klaers was beslis in die minderheid en is hulle deur die positiewes oorheers.

Tydens die 1970s tot 1990s was Nasionale Diensplig nie die gewildste tydverdryf in die land nie, en heelwat inwoners het nie net slegs die politieke doelwitte van die regerende party nie gesteun nie, maar was 100% daarteen. Die Grensoorlog was ook nie so gewild in alle sosiale kringe soos die regering en die SAW dit graag sou wou hê nie. Desnieteenstaande, het die NDPs meestal die heelhartige steun van hulle gesinne geniet. Mens wonder soms of die regering ooit besef het hoeveel steun ons by die opleidingseenhede van die families geniet het, ongeag politieke- en sosiale verskille, en veral tydens die moeilikste omstandighede soos die afsterwe van hulle seuns.

Sommige ouers het miskien ook nie besef (of heeltemal verstaan) dat hulle seuns een geword het met hulle makkers, hulle eenhede en veral met die kamerade wat saam met hulle in gevegte was nie, partykeer selfs tot die uitsluiting van hulle gesinne. Ons het deurgaans die manne aangemoedig (soms beveel) om noue bande en -kontak met hulle geliefdes te behou. Waar nodig is bv. in sommige gevalle die manne verplig om ten minste weekliks 'n brief of twee huiswaarts te stuur. Die amper magnetiese krag van kameraadskap het soms alles oorheers en het van die manne hulle makkers eerder as hulle gesinne as familie beskou – totdat daar geleentheid was om weer tydelik of permanent huiswaarts te keer!

As die Pee Effs deel gehad het in die samehorigheid en die bande van kameraadskap wat gesmee is, is dit 'n kruis wat ons maklik en graag sal dra!

Einde van Deel 5

# Die 61 Meg Mesmaker

## The 61 Mech Knife Maker

During a survey done on the 61 Mech Facebook Group on how our Veterans spend their leisure time and what their hobbies are =. Eleven members indicated that they are interested in the making of knives; some as professional knife makers and blacksmiths; while others practice it purely out of the creative urge to make a beautiful knife. In this months issue of the 61 Mech Newsletter we explore the art of *Hylton Rutherford*

A bit about myself, Hylton Brian Rutherford I was born in 1964 in Gwelo Rhodesia. My parents moved to JHb in 1969. I completed my Primary school in JHB and high school in Durban. I did my National Service in 1981/82, reporting for duty at Durban Light Infantry before being trained off to 1SAI, Bloemfontein. After 12 months training we were transferred to 4SAI Middelburg and shipped off to the border to participate in OPS Dolfyn where I was in 81mm Mortars with O Company.

For as long as I can remember I have always been fascinated in knives, especially the art of transforming shapeless bars of steel into beautiful functional cutting tools. My creative drive found an outlet in the field of Marketing and Advertising where I eventually opened up my own Graphic Design business. After a discussion on Nihonto with my business partner of the time, he mentioned his neighbor was a bladesmith. I immediately sought him out and met Stuart Smith with whom I did a two day course in 2006.

This proved to be the end of my graphic design career and the beginning of my being able to fulfill a lifelong passion. Due to client loss because of BEE issues I closed the graphic design

business and sought income as a freelance graphic designer/marketing consultant....

This left plenty of time in hand to pursue my newly reawakened bladesmithing hobby. 10 Years down the line I had to throw in the towel on my consultancy side and focus on my Bladesmithing business as I had to acknowledge that was where my passion did lie. I have now been a full time bladesmith for 8 years.





The term 'blacksmith' is typically used to refer to any metalworker capable of forging, manipulating, and shaping iron. Historians believe that blacksmiths have been present since ancient times, with tools and techniques gradually evolving over the years. In comparison, bladesmiths are typically viewed as a subset of the blacksmiths' craft, focusing exclusively on the production of blades.

A bladesmith is an individual craftsman who creates knives, wielding a unique and valuable skillset. With a combination of artistry, technical precision, and knowledge of metallurgy, a bladesmith transforms raw materials into functional and beautiful tools. The art of bladesmithing has been passed down through generations, and each bladesmith brings their own style and approach to the craft.

The bladesmith must carefully select and forge the right type of steel, considering factors such as hardness, durability, and potential for corrosion. Through heating and shaping, they transform the steel into a blade of desired shape and size. The bladesmith's eye for detail and ability to manipulate the steel create a blade that is not only functional but also aesthetically pleasing. Beyond the technical aspects, a bladesmith brings their creativity and artistic flair to the table. They have the opportunity to showcase their personal style through different design elements such as engravings, handle materials, and overall knife shape. Each knife becomes a unique piece of art, representing the bladesmith's skill and creativity. A bladesmith's work goes beyond creating a tool; they create a work of art that serves a practical purpose.



*Bowie WIP. Forged 5160. Damascus guard.*



*Dagger. 5160 steel blade.*



*Forged 5160, brass bolster, wild olive spacer and warthog tusk*



*Long hunter! Forged 5160 blade.*



*Kudu horn*

Blades have been fascinating for people for a long time, serving both practical purposes and representing something meaningful. The idea of creating your own special blade allows you to appreciate its historical importance and express your artistic skills. Every element of the blade, such as the materials used, shape, and balance, contributes to how well it works and how it looks.

Blades have played a significant role in human history, representing power and status. Whether it's the iconic katana from Japan or the formidable Viking swords, blades have served as both tools and symbols. Designing your own blade lets you embrace this timeless craft and create something truly exceptional, connecting you to a rich historical legacy.

Designing your own blade allows you to tap into your inner blacksmith and express your creativity. It's an opportunity to customize an ancient tradition with a personal touch. Whether you're an experienced blade enthusiast or a beginner interested in this captivating craft, designing your own blade combines artistry, engineering, and self-expression in a truly unique way.

The properties and characteristics of different steel types directly impact the performance and longevity of the blade. Factors such as hardness, corrosion resistance, and ease of sharpening should be taken into account when choosing the steel. Whether you choose high-carbon steel or stainless steel, it is essential to understand the unique attributes of each type to make an informed decision.

The tang and handle materials of a blade are important for its functionality. The tang provides strength and stability, while the choice of handle material affects the grip and feel of the blade. There are various options to choose from, including traditional wooden handles and modern synthetic materials. It is important to find a balance between aesthetics and practicality to have a visually appealing, comfortable, and functional blade.

It is important to understand the various shapes of blades and how they are used. Each shape has its own advantages and purposes. Whether you need a versatile blade for everyday use or a specific tool for a particular task, knowing the different shapes and their pros and cons will help you make a well-informed choice.



*A Dirk long-bladed thrusting dagger.*



*Assegaai! Wire wrapped Matumi shaft with forged 5160*



Blade length and balance play a crucial role in determining how a blade performs. A longer blade provides greater cutting power and reach, but it may compromise manoeuvrability. To create a blade that feels comfortable and natural, it is essential to strike a balance between length, weight distribution, and overall ergonomics. The goal is to find the perfect sweet spot where the blade's form and function meet.

In order to bring your blade design idea to life, it is crucial to have precise measurements and scale. Technical drawings are key in achieving this. By accurately measuring and maintaining proper proportions, you can create a blueprint for your blade design concept.

Drawing blade profiles can be intimidating, but it is a skill that can improve with practice. Paying attention to blade thickness, fullers, and edge geometry will enhance your design and make it more realistic. Whether you use traditional or digital drawing tools, the more you practice drawing blade profiles, the better you will get at capturing the subtle details.



***“FIGHTER”***

Heat treatment is a method used to enhance the properties of a blade by heating it to a specific temperature and then quickly cooling it. This process has an impact on the hardness, toughness, and overall performance of the steel.

The different approaches used in the heat treatment process are: quenching, annealing, and tempering. Quenching involves rapidly cooling the steel, which makes it very hard. On the other hand, annealing is a slower cooling process that makes the blade softer and more flexible. These approaches should not be confused with fancy dance moves, as they are important steps in the heat treatment process. Tempering is a process used to find the ideal balance of hardness and toughness in a metal blade. It involves reheating the blade to a precise temperature and then cooling it, which slightly decreases its hardness while maintaining its strength and resilience.



***Vegmes***



*Stick this in your boot! A sturdy little protector*



*Antler utility. Trapper style.*



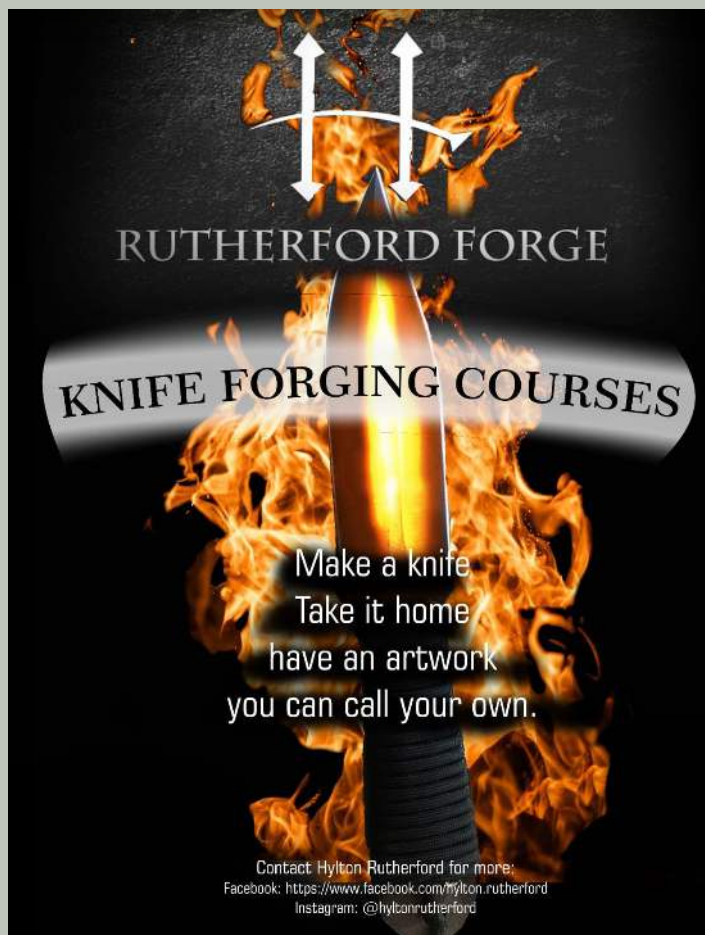
*Nessmuk excels as a hunting, skinning, butchering, food prep knife*

Forging is the process of turning a steel blade from an idea into a physical object. It involves applying heat to the steel and shaping it using tools such as hammers and anvils. It is similar to sculpting, except that hot metal is used instead of clay or marble. In the traditional method, blacksmiths would heat the steel until it glowed and then carefully shape it into the desired form by striking it with a hammer. Shaping techniques for metal blades include hammering to thin out the metal and create patterns, grinding to refine the shape and create a smooth surface, and cutting to trim excess metal and create the blade's outline. These techniques give the blade a personalized touch, sleek appearance, and stylish haircut.

The handle is like the handshake of a blade. It's the part that connects with your hand and completes the overall design. When choosing a handle for your knife, it should both feel comfortable in your hand and look visually pleasing. Comfort and functionality are important, so selecting a handle that fits well and has factors like grip texture, shape, and finger grooves is crucial. Additionally, aesthetics are a matter of personal preference, allowing you to choose between a minimalist or ornate design that reflects your style and makes your knife stand out. To achieve a perfectly sharp blade, it is essential to have the right tools. This could include a sharpening stone, honing rod, or a sharpening system. These tools will be your reliable companion in your journey to attain a razor-sharp edge.

Designing your own blade involves a combination of artistry, craftsmanship, and knowledge. Different strokes and techniques can be used, such as circular or back-and-forth motions. Understanding the basics, improving design skills, and embracing the forging and shaping process are key. Whether for practical use or decoration, the satisfaction of creating a unique blade is unparalleled. So, embrace blade design, let your creativity shine, and enjoy the rewarding adventure of crafting your own exceptional blade.





*Kitchen Cleaver*



*Pendants*



**Setting up for a full class two day course.**



# Legacy Conversations

ANDREW WHITAKER

## 61 Mech Veterans BORN OF 61 MECH

by Andrew Whitaker



## 61 Mech Veterans GET-TOGETHER 2023

by Andrew Whitaker



### *Legacy Conversations with 61 Mech*

My introduction to Legacy came when I facilitated an interview with HP Ferreira as part of our 61 veterans back a buddy fundraising.

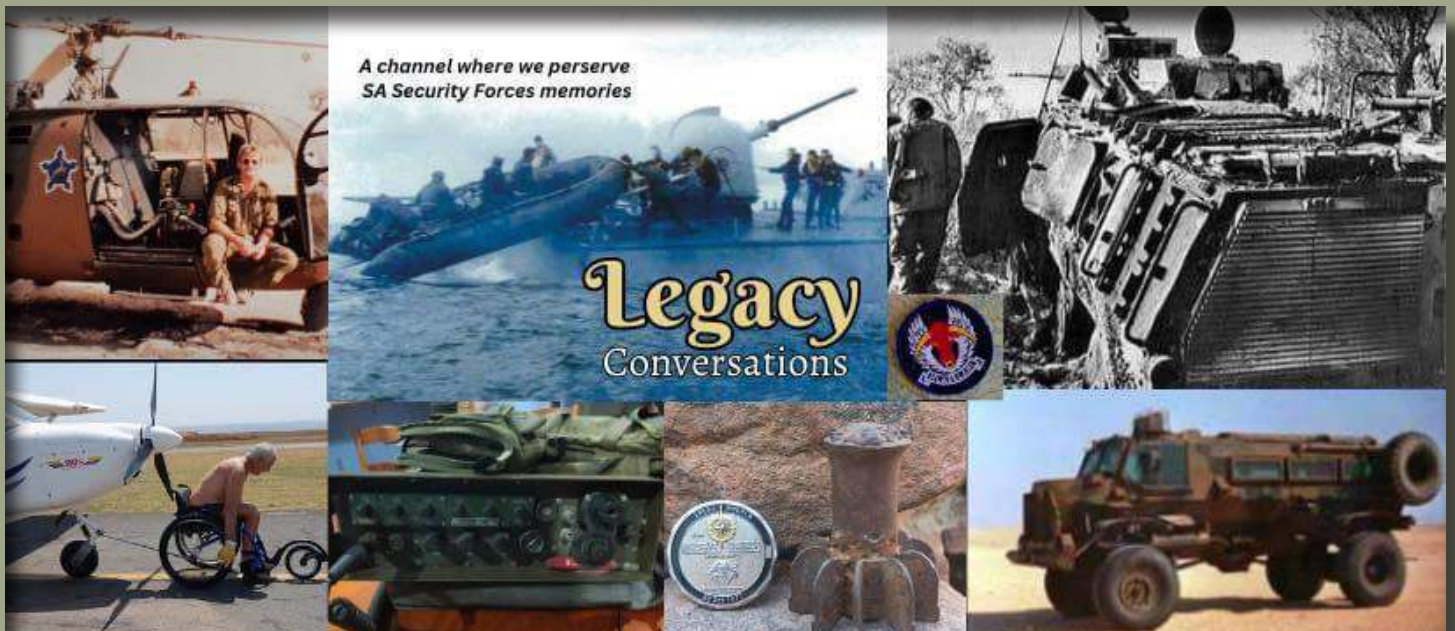
In hindsight I found out that I had already featured on a recording of our Smokeshell reunion at Club Omuthiya on 10 June 2022. When in early January 2023, Koos asked if there was anyone able to assist with interviews, I jumped at the opportunity.

It has been a very interesting year, with numerous trips to carry out interviews. I prefer doing face to face interviews and use every opportu-

nity to do so. It seems that the biggest buy in to the concept has come from 32bn veteran's. This has to a large extent been driven by Kevin Johnson and Peter Williams.

I think 61 veterans are probably next on the list, and as I'm a 61 veteran and this is a 61 newsletter, I think it's appropriate to concentrate on my experiences around 61 veterans.

My first conversation was with Jan Malan. I had flown up to Johannesburg to be with HP for his first consultation with the medical specialists and managed to meet Jan at the war museum, where he explained the Ratel from front to back, top to bottom and side to side. It was





my first time in a ratel since my last camp in 1988 and it was fascinating recalling some of the incredible technology and thought put into this machine and learning new aspects as well.

In due course during this year I carried out interviews and took part in conversations with numerous 61 veterans and associates of 61. It has been particularly satisfying to meet those involved in operations with 61, but from other units, specifically 32 bn Recce wing, chopper pilots, mirage pilots, a Bosbok pilot and doctors. Not all have been interviewed but hopefully will be in due course.

Then also 61 veterans that were not mechanised infantry. Stephen Clarke from the G5 artillery team and Anthony Turton, initially 61, armoured cars but later a long career in National Intelligence.

Tammy Booysen, together with some of the other children of 61 veterans, have launched "born of 61". We had a wonderful interview and I urge children and grandchildren of 61 veterans to support this initiative.



*Smokeshell brothers hold a surprise birthday party for HP at Gariep 61 get together*



*Theuns Meyer, myself, Johann Merts. Theuns was a Puma pilot and Johann an Alo pilot during Smokeshell*



*Together with Tony Reis and Arne Soderlund. Both been interviewed by me for Legacy. All 3 of us old boys of CBC Kimberley*

*Volgens oorlewing sterf 'n mens nie totdat die laaste persoon jou naam vergeet nie. Ons het 'n plig om die verhare van hierdie ongelooflike Grensoorlog-ge-nerasie wat geskiedenis beleef, gemaak en ook verander het, te vertel*

*Jandre du Plessis 2021*

Every year in May, 61 veterans get together for a weekend at Gariep dam. I recorded as much of this year's as possible and released a Legacy video.

Then from a more personal point of view, I released a recording made of the key moments in our trip to the Smokeshell battlefield last year and released on the 43rd anniversary of the battle at Smokeshell, released a video on the heroes (many of whom received no recognition) of the battle at Smokeshell.

Then on 1 September this year I launched the "Legacy Conversations" Facebook group. All links to historic interviews are available on this group and within minutes of a new release the link is posted as well. In 2 months we have grown to 750 members and this is most encouraging.

I did my camps with Regiment Groot Karoo, which although not directly associated with 61, was somewhat of a 61 old boys team. My last camp was during Operation Packer and Hooper and it was extremely interesting interviewing a Russian interpreter, Igor Ignatovich. Although we weren't there at the same time he had left Cuito Cunevale shortly before my arrival in the area.

During my trip to Smokeshell last year, I met Nicole Dickson. I had spoken to her earlier in the year as she was busy with her doctoral thesis on the border war with a specific focus on Smokeshell. In fact on the battlefield we hatched the plan to launch a fundraising scheme to assist 61 veterans in need, with HP being our first priority. Nicole was in Bloemfontein when HP was interviewed by Legacy and she later agreed to come on board as our next presenter. I was privileged to welcome her onboard.

It has been an interesting and exciting year, learning plenty about the going on behind the scenes, meeting interesting people.

Koos has referred to the charity side of Legacy and I was privileged to interview retired Admi-

ral Arne Soderlund. Arne is the co-editor of the book "Iron fist from the sea". My interview was not about his military adventures, but rather to assist by appealing for donations to finance the moving of the submarine "Assegai" to land where it will serve as a museum. As an aside Arné and myself attended the same school in Kimberley. He was a sea scout in Kimberley. We called them puddle pirates.

Whilst I have really enjoyed my first year at Legacy, it hasn't come without its challenges. The most frustrating is I think the lack of understanding of the process and I would just like to maybe explain a bit here. Let's say for example I carry out a one hour interview. I've learnt that it's best to leave the camera running as it's far easier to cut out unwanted footage than to try and piece together numerous recordings. But I now need to listen to the recording to decide what to cut. Because it's a bit of a stop start



*With Martin Louw. Mirage pilot*



*Andy freeman Bosbok pilot during Smokeshell*



process it will take about an hour and a half. I then need to go through it again to add photos and text. This is a bit quicker as I've made notes during my first watch, but another half an hour. I then need to upload it from my editing software. Due to slow internet speeds, this will take another hour and a half and then best part of an hour to upload to YouTube. So a whole day gone. Then once Koos has viewed and is happy it gets added to the queue which is already set for about 6 weeks. So guys, please don't start messaging me a week after the recording asking why your interview hasn't been released yet.

The other problem I've encountered is being invited to an event. Purchased air tickets and hired

a vehicle. Been asked by the organizer to arrive an hour before the start of the event. Arriving and been told that the organizer is too busy to speak to me but will see me a bit later and then for the next seven hours making the effort to avoid me. I did manage to meet up with a few pilots from Operation Sceptic who I will be interviewing in due course and some of the 32 veterans that I had previously interviewed and was awarded a 32bn certificate of recognition, so all was not lost.

With the knowledge of what it takes I applaud the effort that Dawid Lotter puts into this newsletter and finally would ask that anyone interested in recording their story to contact me.

**HAVE YOU GOT A STORY TO TELL?**

**I AM SURE YOU HAVE!!**

**LET'S TALK.**

When we talk about the military veteran's legacy, we are referring to the many contributions they have made to our nation and our world. From defending our country in war to protecting our freedoms and serving in various civilian capacities, military veterans have shaped our history and culture in countless ways. In recognizing and celebrating these contributions, it is important to have conversations with the current and future generations about the legacy of veterans.

The importance of legacies is that they allow us to learn from the past and serve as reminders of what has been accomplished. In a legacy conversation, people talk about their own experiences, others who inspire them, and values that contribute to a meaningful life. Additionally, it involves discussions about life's biggest questions—what should our country's goals be? How do we continue to live up to our values?

Military veterans' stories are inspiring and should be shared. By opening up these conversations, people can gain a greater understanding of the role veterans played and how their service impacts our everyday lives. Stories of courage, fortitude, and patriotism can be used to shape our direction and the future of our country.

By engaging in legacy conversations, people can gain insight and inspiration. Most importantly, it brings the contributions of past generations to the present. It allows us to honor and appreciate the heroes who fought for our freedom and security. Veterans are an important part of our collective history, and legacy conversations can help ensure that their legacies live on.

## WHERE LEGACY STARTED

I emigrated to Switzerland in 2019 to be with my wife, Rebecca, who is a kind soul. What I found in that country is inside a video on Legacy Conversations called “Police State Switzerland.” So I was not happy there but had two advantages. First, quick internet and no electricity outages. Secondly, a quick laptop and time on my hand since I was sitting at home. One night, I was sleeping, I heard a voice say “Go and speak to the Army, make recordings and call it Legacy something (I woke up without remembering the last part). Of course, this was not something to take lightly and so I prayed, and had the same dream, this time the “Legacy Conversations” came through clearly. I asked for another sign, even patiently explaining that “I am from the police and don’t have much to say to the army and worse, the army have nothing to say to us.” The idea did not go away. I looked outside and saw the picture below.



That looked like a cross to me, just above France, direction Geneva. I picked up the phone and called two people, SW Fourie and my old commander, Lt Col Gerhard Potgieter and explained I want to record their stories. They were very supportive. SW Fourie, a former 1 Recce Sgt Major that was voted twice the best operator during his service years, an explosive expert (Advanced Demolitions), agreed to speak.

Once a week we would sit down after 21h00 so that his kids could sleep first (he is a single dad). I would run for the bus afterwards, and frankly we had no clue what we were doing but I quickly learned to keep quiet and let the guest speak. That is our motto to this day, we have no wish to be in the limelight, it is the guest’s hour, not ours. Anyway, we made about a dozen videos in Afrikaans.

Immediately the complaints came, the viewers could not understand Afrikaans. Thus we redid the entire series in English and since both of us speak English in public under pressure, that got attacked as well. Nevertheless, SW brought



James Teitge, RSM 1 & 5 Recce, Frans Fourie, 1 Recce Commander, 4 Recce 2/IC, HC, Kerslig, and so much more. Then came Brig Gen Bornmann, Special Forces Brigade Commander besides others and Legacy Conversations was born.





From the SW Fourie recordings we wrote “Sierra Whiskey – 10 Years in South African Special Forces” which became a best seller book. It changed his life. For me, it was book 51 in that series and took about a month to write. Rebecca edited it and did the cover design. The rest is history.



32 Battalion was opened by former SAP & 32 member, Kevin Johnson, still a silent part of the show and doing fantastic work in the background. Kevin would go on and give an entire series on entrepreneurship to help the manne. Because of him and Major Apollo, the 32 Veterans have wheelchairs. All started by Legacy Conversations. We are proud of this.



We have a patrons page with 34 active members (subject to change) contributing 5 USD per month to us. We were also forced in November 2023 to allow ads on the channel (by YouTube who changed their terms of agreement to blackmail creators). The money so raised are used to pay direct costs, i.e. camera and computer equipment, Zoom, etc. You cannot edit videos like this with Mickey Mouse computers, you

need powerful machines and even then risk burning them out (indeed I lost a 2,000 USD laptop for this very reason). No presenter is paid but they do have costs, fuel, accommodation, travelling costs (toll roads, damage to vehicle, running costs, etc.). It is just right that some of these expenses are covered. You will not find a charity not paying huge salaries – I saw them in Swineland – and vowed that will never happen. But direct costs ought to be covered.

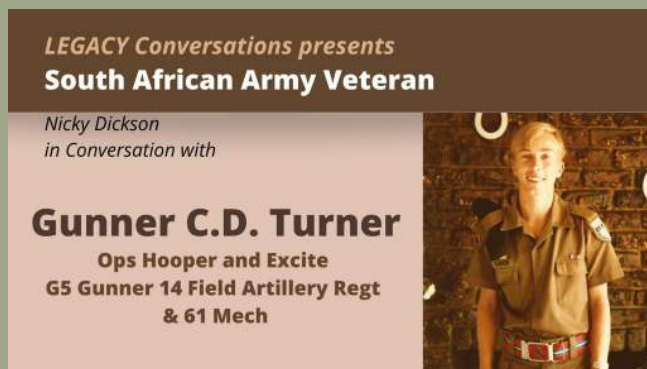
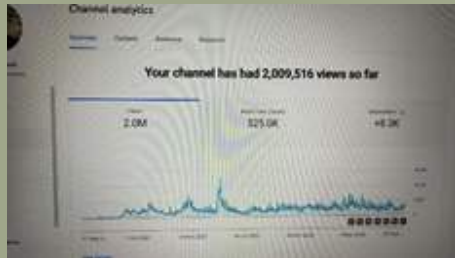
We also started to do charity work. As an unbreakable rule not one cent commission was ever taken or will be taken where we raise money for veterans as we did with 31 Bn member Diaz Augusto who lost an arm and a leg on the same side of his body in 1985 (RPG attack on his Buffel).



SW Fourie, Hans Louw (both 1 Recce, Hans 5 Recce) and Morne Rossouw (7 Med) with a lot of assistance from others are dealing with Aus-to. As I write here, almost R100,000 was raised and paid to Johan Botha Rekenmeesters to control the funds. Legacy has nothing to do with the financial side of things. His house is being rebuild with electricity, running water, and fully stocked with furniture donated by veterans. His eyes have cataracts on, the man is blind, but will be operated on early next year and he will in all probability be able to see again. I thank SW Fourie and team for what they are doing for Oom Diaz.

The first video came out on 21 May 2021. It is a day of new beginnings for me. That was the day when my wife passed in 2014 and one I dread every year to face. But we did and we tried and today we are at more than two million views with more than 550 videos. The lies told to us that no one cares and that no one is interested in

our stories or history are exposed as liberal rubbish. We cannot have this many views without vast interest or people waiting weeks to get on the show. This is our time and bloody well high time too since we are getting older and are running out of time. I wish to thank all involved, the presenters, their wives, husband, you, the veterans, and our Father in heaven who started this. I tell you, Gents, it was not me. I claim no honour here.



*Nicole Dickson*

My husband Graham is a border war veteran and keen historian, and he started watching Legacy Conversations not long after Koos started sharing them. Sometimes we would watch the recordings together and it wasn't long before the conversations became a resource for the doctorate I was doing.

For the past two decades I've worked as a narrative therapist and spiritual director and there is one aspect of this model of therapy that resonates with the essence of Legacy Conversations - the importance of life stories. There is transformative power in storytelling and the way our understanding is shaped by narratives. In narrative therapy, stories are seen as central to how individuals, groups and even cultures construct meaning, identity, and agency. This is what drew me to gather the stories of trauma experienced by some of the soldiers who participated in Operation Smokeshell and the

I can go on and speak of HC holders breaking into tears of emotion since no one ever listened to them before. I can tell you of the good will from so many and the wonderful people we met and became friends with. But I will leave by saying we get letters from foreign militaries who are in awe of the caliber men and women we recorded. And that is the greatest gift of all.

You don't need to fade away as old soldiers do, your voice can be kept alive to the benefit of the youngsters hungry to learn from the old manne. Join us in this effort to keep our history not only alive but also available to anyone who has ears and eyes and wishes to learn from the best.

*Koos*



effects of collective retelling back on the site of encounter in Angola for a thesis. I'm learning that being listened to not only validates the experiences of members of the Armed Forces but also creates a meaningful repository of the stories that will one day no longer be told.

I joined the Legacy team after two conversations with Koos. One alongside Hennie and Phia Ferreira and Andrew Whitaker and one in which Koos invited me to talk about the work I do. Work necessity, during Covid, taught me to use Zoom for all kinds of conversations and it has connected me with folk from all around the world. I'm delighted to be a part of the Legacy team and although you won't see me often, I hope to offer a space for women to tell their side of the story – whether as mothers of soldiers, wives, those who themselves served in the Armed Forces in any capacity and also for the children of veterans who served in the 'Border War' whose lives have, in multi-generational ways, been influenced too.



# Veterane - Leef en Oorleef

## MOET VIR GEEN REDE ONBEWAPEN UIT JOU HUIS UIT GELOK WORD NIE

*In the three months between July and September 2023, 6 945 South Africans were murdered. This number is slightly lower (59) than the 7 004 people who were killed in the same reporting period in 2022. Further to this, 13 090 people suffered sexual assault while 42 297 others were seriously assaulted.*

Moenie uitgaan na jou “krag-box” om te kyk wat aangaan as jou krag afgaan nie – kry eers hulp van buite af in !!

■ Moenie uitgaan om te kyk hoekom loop daar water uit jou krane of in jou tuin nie – die krane kan nie van self oopgaan nie – kry eers hulp van buite af in !!

■ Moenie uitgaan as iemand om “hulp roep” of “gewond” by jou huis aankom nie – bel die nodige nood-eenhede soos polisie, ambulans, Sekuriteits reaksie eenheid, Buurtwag ens !!

■ Moet ook nie goedsmoeds vir die “polisie” oopmaak nie .. kontak jou naaste polisiestrasie en bevestig eers alle details !!

■ Moenie uitstorm as jou voertuig(e) se alarm afgaan nie – daar moet ‘n (moontlik gevaarlike) rede wees daarvoor !!

■ Moenie uitstorm om te kyk hoekom jou honde dringend en aanhoudend blaf nie – daar moet ‘n (gevaarlike) rede wees daarvoor !!

■ Moenie uitgaan as klein hondjies op jou stoep of by jou voordeur neergesit word nie. Bel dan eerder jou Sekuriteits reaksie eenheid, Buurtwag of DBV om uit te kom asb. Lyk my dis die nuwe Modus Operandi deesdae. Kriminele sit klein hondjies saans naby jou huis se deure en wag vir jou om uit te kom. MOENIE daarvoor val nie!

■ Moenie reageer op “hulproep” van jou werkers in die nag nie - maak ‘n alternatiewe reeling met hulle - in mediese noodgeval

byvoorbeeld, kan hulle jou bel en jy kan ambulans reël !!

■ Moenie vir “verkoops foefies” of “herstelwerk foefies” of “opname truuks” of “werk soek truuks” val nie – as hulle nie met jou ‘n afspraak kan maak nie, dan mag hulle jou nie te siene kry nie !!

■ Moet GEEN vreemdes by of naby jou huis toelaat nie (dag of nag) .. hanteer dit altyd as ‘n moontlike roof / plaasaanval as daar vreemdes per voertuig of voet aankom - roep onmiddellik hulp van buite af in voordat hulle naby jou kom !!

■ Reël al hierdie nood-drills ook met jou bure rondom jou – praat met mekaar, al is dit 3-uur in die nag en help mekaar so beskerm teen al hierdie slinkse truuks !!

■ Kry AL die nooddienste, SAPS, Buurtwagte, Sekuriteits reaksie eenheid, ens. se noodnommers op julle selfone en roep ALTYD EERS hulp van BUITE af in om jou eiendom te beveilig VOOR jy self uitstorm !!

■ Ons is geregtig op privaatheid en ‘n “veilige spasie” om ons – moenie dat daardie regte binnegedring word nie – handhaaf dit baie streng !!

■ Vertrou ALTYD jou “6e sintuig”, die “stemmetjie” wat jou waarsku of “daardie gevoel” – dis gewoonlik reg !!



2023

